

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143758
ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EB/ISM:RMOGDEN:S

APPROVED BY:EB/ISM:RMOGDEN

-----090873 070413Z /11

O 070225Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143758

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUBUMBASHI 0621 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
PARIS BRUSSELS LUSAKA RABAT JUN 01.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0621

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, EMIN, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS-JUNE 1,1978

1. MILITARY SITUATION: NO CHANGE IN DEPLOYMENT
OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS.WHERE THE BELGIANS
PULLED ONE PATROL UNIT OUT OF KIPQYHI ON MAY 31,
THE LOCAL EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY RAISED SUCH A FUROR
THAT A REPLACEMENT UNIT WAS IMMEDIATELY SENT.
FEELINGS REMAIN VERY HIGH THAT THERE WILL BE
A MASSIVE EVACUATION BY SHABA'S EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY
IF THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH LEAVE. ONE HIGH GECAMINES SOURCE
ESTIMATED THAT 60-75 PC OF HIS COMPANY'S EXPATRIATPS
WOULD WANT TO DEPART.

2. KOLWEZI: UNCONTROLLED FAZ PILLAGING CONTINUED.
WATER,ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE SERVICES HAVE BEEN RESTORED
TO THE I2,, AT LEAST PERIODICALLY. A SECOND TRAIN CARRYING
FOOD IS DUE ON JUNE1. A GROUP OF SICK AND WOUNDED
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ZAIRIAN CIVILIANS WERE AIRLIFTED FROM THE HOSPITAL IN
KOLWEZI, TO LUBUMBASHI ON MAY 31 BECAUSE OF
THE INADEQUACY OF KOLWEZI'S MEDICAL FACILITIES. THEY
BROUGHT WITH THEM STORIES
ABOUT FAZ SOLDIERS GOING THROUGH THE KOLWEZI
HOSPITAL WARDS EXTORTING MONEY AND BEATING
PATIENTS.

3. GECAMINES KOLWEZI OPERATIONS: GECAMINES HAS BEEN SENDNG A TEAM OF TOP TECHNICIANS MOSTLY EXPATRIATES TO KOLWEZI EACH DAY IN AN EFFORT TO RESTART THEIR KOLWEZI OPERATIONS. THE TEM HAS VISITED ALL MINING FACILITIES, EXCEPT THE METALKAT ZINC PLANT AND FOUND ALL INSTALLATIONS AND HEAVY MINING EQUIPMENT IN GOOD SHAPE. GECAMINES STOKC OF DIESEL OT KOLWEI WAS NOT TOUCHED. APPROXIMATELY 200 OF THE COMPANIES 1000 TRUCKS AT KOLWEZI ARE IN RUNNING ORDER. USING ZAIRIAN CADRE, SUPPLEMENTED BY THE VISITING TEAMS, GECAMINES HAS RECOMMENCED PARTIAL OPERATIONS AT ONE OPEN PIT MINE AND ONE OF THE COMPANIES TWO CONCENTRATORS. A CONFLICT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN GECAMINES SENIOR ZAIRIAN AND EXPATRIATE STAFF OVER HOW RAPIDLY MINING OPERATIONS CAN BE RESUMED. DELEGATE GENERAL UMBWA WANT ALL FACILITIES STARTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE IS THOUGHT TO BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM KINSHASA TO TAKE ACTION. THE EXPATRIATES ARGUE THAT THE UNDERGROUND MINE AND THE COMPANY'S MODERN KAMOTO CONCENTRATOR REQUIRE MORE TECHNICAL TALENT THAN IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. THE EXPATRIATES SAY THAT THESE FACILITIES COULD EASILY BE STARTED FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES BUT BREAKDOWNS WOULD NOT BE REPAIRED WHICH WOULD MEAN COSTLY DAMAGE OR POSSIBLY CAVE-INS AT THE UNDERGROUND MINE. CONFIDENTIAL

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NEVERTHELESS GECAMINES IS PLEASED WITH THE WORK ITS ZAIRIAN ENGINEERS AND WOCKERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH TO DATE.

4. LUBUMBASHI: PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS EXPACTED TO ARRIVE IN LUB UMBASHI JUNE 1. LARGE NUMBERS OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS HAVE DESCENDED UPON THE TOWN IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS. FEW HAVE HAD TROUBLE FINDING STORIES ABOUT THE MODD OF THE EXPATRIATE POPULATION, FAZ BRUTALITY, AND THE UNPOPULARITY OF THE KINSHASA AUTHORITES. SEVERAL OF THE JOURNALISTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMALLY TOLD BY SHABA'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT THEY HAVE 24 HOURS TO GET OUT OF SHABA.

5. MILITARY ABUSE OF THE CURFEW HAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF MILITARY GOVERNOR SINGA WHO IS QUOTED IN MUJUMBE AS SAYING THAT THE CURFEW IS MEANT "NOT TO SOW DISORDER AND INSECURITYP WITH THE POPULATION." THE AUTHORITIES DO NOT INTEND HE CURFEW TO MEAN LIGHTS

OUT IN HOUSES NOR TO FORBID PEOPLE
TO LEAVE THEIR HOUSES TO USE THE PRIVACY
OF THEIR OWN PROPERTY.
BORG UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, INVASIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE143758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/ISM:RMOGDEN:S
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-0283
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780685/aaaacvIm.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fde0cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2452436
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS-JUNE 1,1978
TAGS: PINS, EMIN, CG
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fde0cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014